

ARPA FAQs: HELPING HOMEOWNERS REPLACE FAILED WELLS AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

What is the max and min awards?

- Tier 1 = Households Earning Less than \$65,000 per year
 - Receive 100% the reasonable cost of design and permitting (up to \$5,000)
 - Receive 100% of the cost of construction, not to exceed \$20,000
- Tier 2 = Households Earning Between \$65,000 and 200% MHI (about \$110,000-\$120,000) per year
 - Receive 50% of the reasonable cost of design and permitting (up to \$2,500)
 - Receive 50% of the cost of construction, not to exceed \$10,000

Who are eligible applicants?

The eligibility requirements for this funding source for FY22 are as follows:

- Failed system (water or wastewater)
- Residential property owners (must own and reside on property)
- Single units or owner-occupied multi-family homes, up to four units
- Low to moderate income households
 - Tier 1 = Households Earning Less than \$65,000 per Year
 - Tier 2 = Households Earning Between \$65,000 and 200% MHI (about \$110,000-\$120,000) per Year

Do local ARPA funds have to be included in the project? If so, at what level and when do they need to enter the project – seed or close?

There is no requirement to use local ARPA funds on these projects.

What's a failed wastewater system or water supply?

A failed water (well) or wastewater (septic) system may involve:

- Drinking Water Supply*
 - Does Not Meet Water Quality Standards
 - Known Source of Contamination
 - Not enough water to supply the home
- Onsite Wastewater (Septic) System*
 - Backing up into a home
 - Wastewater is exposed to open air or surfacing on the ground
 - Pooling on ground surface
 - Discharging to a waterbody like a lake, stream, or wetland
 - Causing a failed drinking water supply

Must the homeowner apply directly?

Yes, homeowners must apply.

How can community groups be in a position to help homeowners benefit?

- Though community groups cannot directly receive money, they can help homeowners by directing them to this program and helping them apply as needed.

Are there services for those who have accessibility needs to help fill out the application?

- Yes, there is an ARPA dedicated staff member for this initiative as well as staff members in the Environmental Assistance Office that can help.

If a homeowner with a failing septic system was interested in retrofitting the existing system with an innovative/alternative system, could this ARPA funding program be used for this purpose?

Yes, if there is a clear need or economic reason for use of an innovative/alternative system then this type of technology could be used. The need may be due to soil or location limitations, as determined by a licensed designer and regional engineer.

How is the cost of the replacement system determined?

By a licensed designer and/or contractor and market rate of materials

Does the funding program cover septic design and permitting of a failed septic replacement that was already paid or just the future construction of system?

The funding program is retroactive to March 3, 2021.